

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 AID-05 EB-07 /071 W

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R 042140Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3096

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT

USIA FOR ILA

1. SUMMARY: COSTA RICAN REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT VISIT HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE AND WILL BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THE FAVORABLE STATE OF U.S.-COSTA RICAN RELATIONS. TOP GOCR OFFICIALS ARE PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE VISIT. PRESS AND POPULAR REACTION WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC BUT ON BALANCE FAVORABLE. LOCAL CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED MOST POINTEDLY TO THE STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES WHICH SURROUNDED THE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS FACIO HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. BOTH OF THEM FEEL THAT IT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO

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VISIT. BOTH OF THEM FEEL THAT IT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO

BOTH U.S.-COSTA RICAN RELATIONS AND TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AT LARGE. THEY PROFESS TO BELIEVE THAT THE LAST-MINUTE FAILURE TO CONVENE THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN SAN JOSE DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS NOT A SERIOUS SETBACK, AND THAT THE BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL.

3. PRESS AND PUBLIC REACTION, BOTH DURING AND SINCE THE VISIT, HAS BEEN MORE MIXED BUT STILL BASICALLY POSITIVE. EDITORIAL COMMENT WELCOMED THE SECRETARY TO COSTA RICA AND PRAISED HIS WORLDWIDE DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE STRICT SECURITY MEASURES SURROUNDING THE VISIT, WHICH WERE SEEN BY COSTA RICANS AS BOTH EXCESSIVE AND OFFENSIVE SINCE "IMPOSED" BY THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE. THIS PERCEPTION EMBRACED SUCH ACTION (WHETHER OR NOT IN FACT TAKEN BY COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES OR THE USSS) AS BANNING OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE AIRPORT OBSERVATION BALCONY ON THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL, PUSHING ASIDE SOME MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO WERE CROWDING, AND EVEN PREVENTING THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR FROM FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S INTO PRESIDENT ODUBER'S COMPOUND FOR THE OFFICIAL CALL. LESSER CRITICISM WAS ALSO DIRECTED AT ALLEGED FAVORITISM BY THE USG AND SECRETARY KISSINGER TOWARD BRAZIL, AS REVEALED BY THE SIGNATURE OF THE U.S.-BRAZILIAN CONSULTATIVE AGREEMENT, AND THE ALLEGED "COLONIALISM"

IN THE INVITATIONS FIRST EXTENDED BY PRESIDENT ODUBER TO OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE IN THE AREA TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN SAN JOSE.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOCR OFFICIALS, PRESS AND PUBLIC ALL SHARE IN PRIDE THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY. THEY ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT HE EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH BOTH THE OFFICIAL SIDE OF THE PROGRAM AND HIS SIDE VISITS TO THE NATIONAL THEATER, COSTA RICAN-U.S. CULTURAL CENTER, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE PRESS GAVE WIDE PICTORIAL COVERAGE TO THIS TOUR, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE HUMAN INTEREST ASPECT OF JUVENILE ORCHESTRA'S BRIEF PERFORMANCE FOR THE SECRETARY AT THE NATIONAL THEATER.

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5. OTHER THEMES EMPHASIZED IN THE PRESS INCLUDED THE SECRETARY'S CLARIFICATION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICA, HIS WORDS OF PRAISE FOR COSTA RICAN DEMOCRACY, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES FLOWING FROM COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO'S INITIATIVE WITH THE SECRETARY IN BOGOTA.

6. COMMENT: COSTA RICANS ARE PLEASED THAT THE SECRETARY  
VISITED HERE. IN THEIR EYES, THE SAN JOSE STOP  
DRAMATIZED ONCE AGAIN COSTA RICA'S SPECIAL POSITION  
IN THE HEMISPHERE AS A SMALL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY  
ENJOYING CLOSE FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH AND THE RESPECT  
OF THE U.S. THE VISIT WILL BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THE  
FAVORABLE STATE AND HEALTHY TONE OF U.S.-COSTA RICAN  
RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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